

SPLRS 601.1 (Ft. Huachuca,
Arizona)

June 22, 1954

Honorable Howard Pyle
Governor of the State of Arizona
State House
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Governor Pyle:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter dated June 17 with reference to grazing leases on the land comprising the old artillery range, which was used by the Army some years ago in connection with Fort Huachuca.

The land comprising the artillery range, exclusive of public domain, was deeded to the State of Arizona by the United States on March 2, 1949 and a correction deed dated April 18, 1950. At no time since this land was returned to the State has this office or any other office of the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, accepted any application for grazing or any other type of lease. In checking with the local office of the Bureau of Land Management, we are advised that an application was filed by the State of Arizona on October 25, 1951 (No. 02299) for a use permit covering all of the public domain land within the old artillery range. This application was last amended on April 8, 1953. The Bureau of Land Management states that the application of the State of Arizona precluded the granting of any leases on this land and that no applications have been approved or leases granted by their office since the filing of the application by the State of Arizona. They further state that no leases will be granted as long as this application is a pending action.

There has been no question, so far as this office is concerned, as to jurisdiction over the land in the artillery range since the deed mentioned above and the application by the State filed with the Bureau of Land Management placed the land under the jurisdiction of the State of Arizona. All inquiries received in this office regarding leasing the land within the artillery range have been referred to the State of Arizona. This office has no knowledge of any leasing or other use of the land in question by other Federal agencies. The only leases or other documents of which this office has knowledge are those presently in effect providing for use by the State of Arizona for buffalo grazing and the use of certain facilities by the Arizona National Guard within the main post area.

Honorable Howard Pyle

June 23, 1954

With reference to the last paragraph of your letter, this office received on June 15 Directive No. RE-D 5885 from the Department of the Army directing that this office acquire by donation from the State of Arizona approximately 13,858.72 acres of land comprising the building area on the main post and approximately 3,375.31 acres directly east of the main post in the western part of the old artillery range. We have been checking the acreage in the various parcels of land and under date of June 17 forwarded a revision in the acreage to our Los Angeles District office with a recommendation that the acreage be corrected to 13,918.11 to be acquired from the State, including the Cemetery and access road, and it is anticipated that the directive will be amended to include the additional acreage. It is suggested that it would be helpful if you would designate someone in your office with whom we can coordinate action on this project so that there may be complete agreement as to the acreage to be transferred to the United States from the State of Arizona. We will keep you advised of our progress in this connection, and you are assured that this action will be brought to a conclusion as speedily as necessary procedure will permit.

Very truly yours,

S. C. FARRINGTON
Chief, Phoenix Real Estate
Field Office